THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOUCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Under the scheme of Appointment and Training of Hindi Teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs. the teachers are appointed by the State Governments/UTs. Revision of scales of pay is also done by the State Govt./UT. The Government of India only reimburses the expenditure for the eligible period.

Late running of Trains

2046. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains being run under each railway zone in the country;

(b) the percentage of trains which ran late and also those which were cancelled under each railway zone during the first six months of the current year; and

(c) the steps taken on proposed to be taken to bring improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Air Pollution in Rural Areas

2047. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air pollution is widespread in rural areas where bio-fuels are used for cooking;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted about the volume of air pollution in rural areas;

(c) if so, the deatils thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to make general awareness about air pollution in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The nature and extent of air pollution in rural areas, where bio-fuels such as wood, dung cakes, crop residues and biogas are used, depend upon the nature and quality of fuel used, design of chulhas, ventilation system, etc. A number of studies have been conducted on air pollution in rural areas by the Tata Energy Reserach Institute and others, but all such studies are of limited nature and relied on a small sample size. During the cooking period, the levels of particulars and carbon-monoxide encountered were not found exceeding the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) prescribed by Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA), USA.

(d) The steps taken to promote generalawareness about air pollution in ruralareas include the following:

1. The Government is implementing two Central sector schemes, namely, National Programme on Improved Chulha and National Project on Biogas Development which caters to family-size biogas plants. The Government is also providing subsidy and other incentives for promotion of these devices in the rural areas with the objective to reduce air pollution in rural areas.

2. Ambient air quality standards have been precribed for major pollutants for the different areas.

3. General environmental awareness campaigns have been launched.

Budgetary Allocation to Control Fire in Forests

2048. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH AND SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what have been budgetary allocation for fire fighting machinery under the Modern Forest Fire Control Mehod for concerned States during the last three years;